



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARIZONA FIELD OFFICE
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Cooperating with the Arizona Department of Agriculture



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CROP PRODUCTION – OCTOBER 2015

ARIZONA HIGHLIGHTS

Based on October 1 conditions, **all cotton** production in Arizona is expected to total 318,000 480-lb bales, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. This forecast is unchanged from the September 1 forecast but down 39 percent from last year's crop.

Upland cotton harvested acreage is forecast at 83,000 acres, down 66,000 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 275,000 480-lb bales of upland cotton, down 44 percent from last year. Upland yield is forecast at 1,590 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up 11 pounds from last year. As of September 27, 30 percent of the upland cotton crop had been defoliated, compared with 29 percent last year and 29 percent for the 5-year average, and 15 percent had been harvested, compared with 9 percent last year and 13 percent for the 5-year average. The cotton crop was rated 5 percent very poor, 2 percent poor, 16 percent fair, 39 percent good, and 38 percent excellent as of September 27. **Pima cotton** harvested acreage is estimated at 18,000 acres, up 3,500 acres from last year. As of October 1, producers expect to harvest 43,000 480-lb bales of Pima cotton, compared with 30,000 bales last year. Pima yield is forecast at 1,147 pounds per acre, unchanged from the September 1 forecast and up 154 pounds from last year.

Arizona farmers and ranchers expect to harvest 260,000 acres of **alfalfa hay** this year, unchanged from 2014. Alfalfa production is forecast at 2.21 million tons, unchanged from 2014 but down 6 percent from the August forecast. Alfalfa hay yield is expected to average 8.50 tons per acre, compared with last year's yield of 8.50 tons per acre and the August 1 forecast of 9.00 tons per acre.

Arizona's 2015-2016 **lemon** production is forecast at 1.60 million boxes, down 20 percent from last season. **Pecan** production in Arizona is forecast at 23.0 million pounds, up 10 percent from the 2014 season.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All cotton production is forecast at 13.3 million 480-pound bales, down less than one percent from last month and down 18 percent from last year. Yield is expected to average 784 pounds per harvested acre, down 54 pounds from last year. **Upland cotton** production is forecast at 12.9 million 480-pound bales, down 18 percent from 2014. **Pima cotton** production, forecast at 451,000 bales, was carried forward from last month.

Production of **alfalfa and alfalfa mixture** dry hay for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 3 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from August and up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from August, but down less than 1 percent from 2014.

The forecast for the 2015-2016 United States **lemon** crop is 844,000 tons, down 6 percent from last season's final utilization. Both Arizona and California are expecting lower production this season.

Pecan production is forecast at 272 million pounds (utilized, in-shell basis), up 3 percent from 2014. Improved varieties are expected to produce 228 million pounds or 84 percent of the total. The native and seedling varieties are expected to produce 44.4 million pounds, making up the remaining 16 percent of production.

For a full copy of the *Crop Production* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.